Shortage of dwelling units

* 14. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENTAND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, at present, country faces a shortage of over 20 million dwelling units;

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking of providing the right policy and reform impetus coupled with other infrastructural inputs so that maximum number of persons, especially belonging to lower strata of society, could be provided this basic necessity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time frame?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) As per the projections made by the Working Group for the Ninth Plan, a total of 16.76 million units would have to be constructed in the urban areas during the Ninth Plan period for covering housing shortage.

The National Housing & Habitat Policy, 1998 laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 29.7.1998 envisages Government's role as an enabler rather than builder. Government aims to create an enabling environment by removing the legal, regulatory, technical, and financial constraints facing the housing sector. The State Governments are required to draw their own action plans to address the housing problems in their States.

Housing is a State subject. However, in order to facilitate construction of adequate housing facilities, particularly for EWS and LIG, Government of India has launched the Two Million Housing Programme under which construction of 7 lakh houses in urban areas and 13 lakh in rural areas every year will be facilitated through State Government agencies on a demand-driven approach. A new scheme called Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana has been announced which plans to construct 4 lakh dwelling units per year in urban areas for slum dwellers. At the present rate of shelter delivery, it may require atleast another 15 years by which the shelter needs of the poor in all States will be largely met.

Infantile Mortality Rate

* 15. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: